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The VEGETABLE SITUATION

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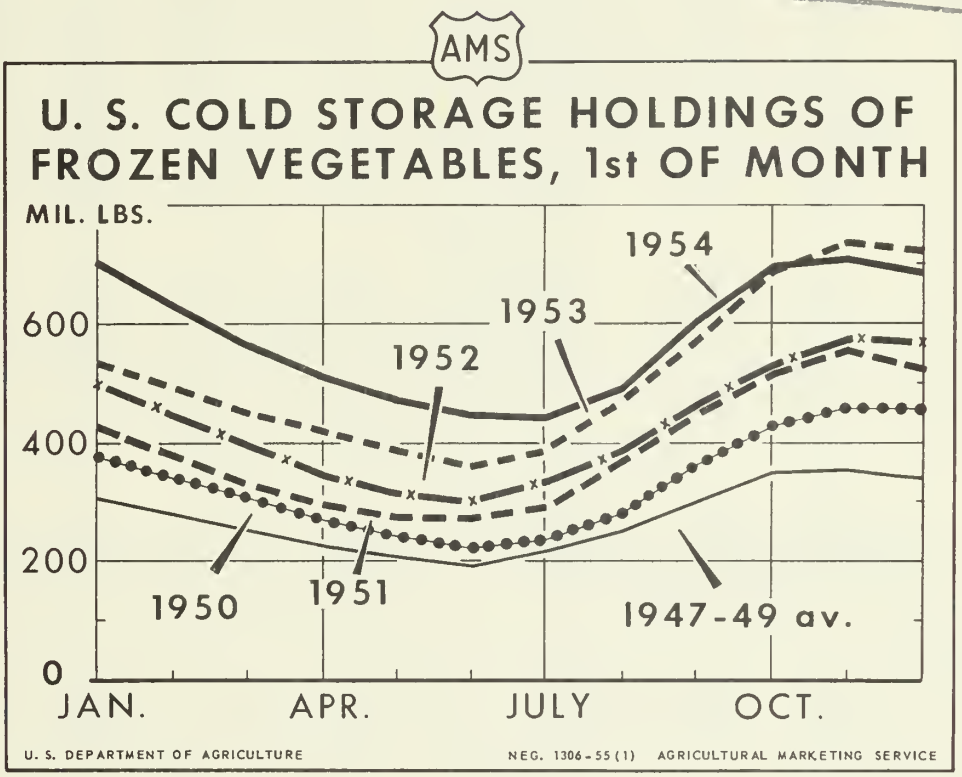

Cold-storage holdings of frozen vegetables in all but two months of recent years have been larger than a year earlier. This reflects the upward trend of both production and consumption in the United States.

Stocks of frozen vegetables begin to increase seasonally after midyear, when the new packs start moving into storage in heavy volume, and reach a peak in the fall. From that time until major production operations are resumed in the following year, stocks comprise the principal source of supplies available to fill consumer needs.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

Table 1.- Vegetables for fresh market and potatoes for marketing in early 1955: Commercial acreage, yield per acre, and production of principal crops, average 1949-53, annual 1954, indicated 1955

Crop and seasonal group	Acreage			Unit	Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1949-53	1954	Indicated 1955		Average 1949-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1949-53	1954	Indicated 1955
	Acres	Acres	Acres					1,000 units	1,000 units	1,000 units
VEGETABLES										
Winter										
Artichokes	7,580	9,000	8,300	Box	97	100	100	737	900	830
Beans, lima	780	400	650	Bushel	90	75	70	72	30	46
Beans, snap	29,620	23,600	23,500	Bushel	100	120	110	2,933	2,832	2,585
Beets	5,540	6,000	5,500	Bushel	132	135	140	727	810	770
Broccoli	8,850	8,050	6,750	Crate	100	108	98	895	868	660
Cabbage 1/	47,380	46,300	41,200	Ton	7.42	7.17	6.82	346,500	331,800	281,000
Carrots	42,070	35,900	39,700	Bushel	252	252	241	10,350	9,050	9,565
Cauliflower	3,580	5,100	5,710	Crate	270	254	246	966	1,293	1,406
Celery	9,820	9,990	9,150	Crate	682	756	756	6,720	7,554	6,920
Corn, sweet	4,040	9,900	8,600	5-doz. ears	127	165	150	518	1,634	1,290
Cucumbers	1,660	2,200	2,800	Bushel	156	145	100	275	319	280
Egg plant	730	800	800	Bushel	411	450	475	302	360	380
Escarole	4,020	4,500	4,500	Bushel	488	545	525	1,976	2,452	2,362
Kale	2,920	3,000	2,700	Bushel	401	350	325	1,172	1,050	878
Lettuce	60,040	61,500	63,400	Crate	171	184	180	10,159	11,325	11,422
Peas, green	2,710	1,000	500	Bushel	57	60	60	146	60	30
Peppers, green	3,560	4,500	4,600	Bushel	428	385	385	1,491	1,732	1,771
Shallots	3,100	2,800	3,300	Barrel	27	27	32	85	76	106
Spinach	25,040	19,900	21,600	Bushel	171	173	184	4,203	3,435	3,974
Tomatoes	13,660	17,400	16,500	Bushel	192	210	190	2,625	3,654	3,135
Total	276,700	271,840	269,760	Ton	5.3	5.7	5.5	1,474.2	1,557.2	1,476.7
Spring										
Early spring										
Asparagus 1/	70,390	72,400	2/76,000	Crate	.76	70	---	5,371	5,068	---
Cabbage 1/	20,940	19,800	2/18,300	Ton	6.24	5.93	---	129,400	117,500	---
Onions	34,740	39,500	38,000	Sack	123	110	---	3,688	4,345	---
Midspring										
Asparagus 1/	10,820	11,480	2/11,680	Crate	87	108	---	1,177	1,243	---
Late spring										
Asparagus 1/	49,890	59,820	2/61,450	Crate	80	66	---	3,991	3,919	---
Onions	17,870	14,800	2/14,700	Sack	261	270	---	4,611	3,992	---
Watermelons	77,980	106,800	2/102,800	Melon	336	366	---	26,145	39,078	---
Total:										
Spring 3/	284,610	326,500	325,030	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Winter and spring 4/	561,270	598,340	594,790	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Annual 4/	2,190,840	2,276,920	---	Ton	4.5	4.7	---	9,888	10,611	---
	Average 1944-53				Average 1944-53			Average 1944-53		
POTATOES (Commercial early):										
Winter	11,540	12,200	12,900	Bushel	200	293	271	2,300	3,571	3,500
Early spring	25,220	23,000	23,300	Bushel	165	275	---	3,990	6,320	---
Late spring	160,040	115,700	131,550	Bushel	262	294	---	41,044	33,967	---
Summer	98,370	59,200	---	Bushel	210	203	---	20,192	12,028	---
Total	295,180	210,100	---	Bushel	235	266	---	67,526	55,886	---

1/ Includes processing. 2/ Prospective. 3/ Includes spring shallots. 4/ Includes asparagus used for processing and cabbage used for sauerkraut.

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, January 26, 1955

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Summary	3	Frozen Vegetables	8
Commercial Vegetables For Fresh Market	4	Potatoes	8
Vegetables For Commercial Processing	6	Sweetpotatoes	11
Canned Vegetables	8	Dry Edible Beans	12
		Dry Field Peas	13
		Appendix of Tables	2, 15-25

SUMMARY

Supplies of vegetables for fresh market sale are smaller this winter than last. Commercial production of the 20 fresh vegetables is expected to be about 5 percent smaller than in the winter of 1954, and stocks of both cabbage and onions on January 1 were much below those of a year earlier. Supplies of potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and both canned and frozen vegetables are also smaller than in early 1954.

Acreage and marketing guides announced by the Department of Agriculture on January 31, 1955 recommend a more than 5 percent smaller acreage for late-crop potatoes this year than last, and a slightly smaller acreage for the summer and fall crops of the major fresh vegetables, summer melons, and the major vegetables grown for commercial processing. The acreage recommended for sweetpotatoes is equal to that in 1954. Yields equal to the average for recent years on the suggested acreages would result in larger production in 1955 only for the processing vegetables and sweetpotatoes.

Consumer demand for fresh vegetables is expected to continue about as strong this winter as last. Consumer incomes, after taxes, are currently slightly above a year earlier. The smaller supplies in prospect this winter for snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, onions, and tomatoes probably will be reflected in higher average prices than last winter.

Technical Bulletin No. 1105, "The Demand and Price Structure for Selected Vegetables," is now being distributed. Copies are for sale (40 cents) by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

Total supplies of commercially processed vegetables, both canned and frozen, available for distribution during the remainder of the 1954-55 marketing year are somewhat smaller than those of a year earlier. But they are sufficient to maintain consumption of these products by civilians at a high rate. Retail prices of most processed vegetables should average a little higher in the next several months than in the same period of 1954. Canned and frozen snap beans and sweet corn may be the major exceptions since supplies of these 2 items at the beginning of the year were somewhat larger than at the beginning of 1954.

Stocks of merchantable potatoes on January 1 totaled 118.2 million bushels, about 8 percent smaller than a year earlier. With total utilization likely to be close to that in early 1954, prices received by farmers for potatoes are expected to continue well above the very low level of a year earlier at least until mid-spring. Later in the spring, potato prices will depend on the tonnage harvested at that time for sale and the pattern of marketings. Indications as of January 1 were that the acreage planted to potatoes for spring harvest would be 11 percent larger this year than last, with most of the increase occurring in the seasonally important late-spring area. On the other hand, early reports indicate a 4 percent smaller total acreage to be planted to potatoes in the intermediate and late States this year than in 1954.

Supplies of sweetpotatoes are smaller than in early 1954 and prices during the remainder of the 1954-55 marketing season are expected to continue above those of a year earlier. The 1954 sweetpotato crop, currently being marketed, was 13 percent smaller than the 1953 crop and the third smallest since 1881. Prices received by growers remained below a year earlier until the bulk of the 1954 crop was marketed, and then advanced rather sharply. In mid-January growers received an average of $2.83 per bushel, 11 percent more than a month earlier and 13 percent over mid-January 1954.

Supplies of dry edible beans are sufficient to maintain civilian consumption of these commodities in 1954-55 at about the same rate per person as a year earlier. White, red kidney and blackeye beans are in smaller supply than in 1953-54, but those of the other colored beans (including Pintos) and lima beans are larger. The relatively heavy sales in recent months of dry field peas for export indicate that the supply for domestic use during the remainder of the 1954-55 marketing year is not as large as in the preceding year. Prices received by growers for both dry edible beans and peas in prospect for the coming months of the current marketing period are expected to stimulate increases in the acreages planted to these two crops in 1955. Acreage allotments on some crops may also encourage larger plantings of beans and peas this year than last.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

Production and Value of 1954 Crop Moderately Smaller Than 1953 Crop

The volume of the principal commercial vegetables produced in 1954 for fresh market sale totaled 10.2 million tons. This was second only to record 1953 crop of 10.3 million tons, and 6 percent above the average for the years 1949-52.

The small decline in 1954 was for the most part caused by the sharp reductions in the onion and cabbage crops, which more than offset the increases for tomatoes and watermelons. The latter was a record crop. Among the other important crops, reductions were reported for asparagus, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, honeydew melons, and spinach. On the other hand, increases over 1953 occurred for snap beans, cantaloups, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, lettuce, and green peppers. Except for snap beans and cucumbers, production of each vegetable in the latter group was a record in 1954.

The spring crop was the only one of the year that was larger--by 4 percent--than the corresponding crop in 1953. Production during the winter was about equal to a year earlier, while the summer and fall crops were each down 3 percent. The reduction in the summer was caused mainly by unfavorable weather which reduced yields. The acreage harvested was larger. For the fall crop, the smaller output in 1954 was due mainly to the smaller acreage harvested; the average yield was about equal to that of a year earlier.

The value of the 1954 commercial vegetable crop was $722.2 million, 3 percent less than that of the preceding year. Although this was lower than in any year since 1950, it was about equal to the 1949-52 average. The value was higher than in 1953 for only 5 of the 28 vegetables for which data were reported--eggplant, garlic, kale, lettuce, and onions.

Prospects Are for a Smaller Crop of Winter Vegetables Than in 1954

Conditions on January 1 indicated that the production of commercial vegetables this winter for fresh market sale would be about 5 percent smaller than that of a year earlier, but about equal to the 5-year (1949-53) average. The expected production decline is attributed to lower yields than those experienced in the winter of 1954 when weather conditions were comparatively favorable. The indicated acreage to be harvested this winter is almost as large as that of last winter. Low temperatures in the latter part of December reduced yields on several crops in Florida and slowed the growth and development of all vegetable crops in California and Arizona. Cold weather in mid-January was damaging to the tender winter-vegetable crops being harvested in the Everglades section of Florida.

Among the major winter-season vegetables, production of snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, escarole, and tomatoes is expected to be smaller than last winter. The total reduction for these crops is expected to more than offset increases in prospect for carrots, cauliflower, lettuce, green peppers, and spinach.

January 1 Stocks of Cabbage and Onions Smaller Than Year Earlier

Stocks of Danish-type cabbage in upstate New York on January 1 totaled 40,000 tons, nearly a third smaller than a year earlier but 57 percent above the 1943-52 average for that date. This year's stocks were equivalent to 26 percent of production compared with 40 percent last year when the early fall Danish-type crop in New York was moderately smaller.

The total quantity of merchantable onions in storage on January 1, 1955 was almost 10 million sacks (50 pounds). This was 20 percent smaller than a year earlier but 11 percent larger than the average for the years 1946-53. Holdings in the eastern States at the beginning of this year were down considerably (by 39 percent) from the unusually large stocks of a year earlier, but were still much above average. In the central and the western States, where stocks were larger than reported for the east, holdings were also smaller than on January 1, 1954--by 6 and 16 percent, respectively.

USDA Guides for Summer and Fall Vegetables

The Department of Agriculture recently announced acreage and marketing guides for commercial fresh vegetables to be grown for harvest this summer and fall. For the summer vegetables the guides recommend a 1 percent smaller acreage for harvest this year than last. Among the 16 vegetables covered, a larger acreage for harvest was suggested for cauliflower, sweet corn, and tomatoes; and about the same acreage as in the summer of 1954 for lima beans, eggplant, onions, green peas, and spinach. Reductions were outlined for snap beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, celery, cucumbers, lettuce, and green peppers. Yields equal to those of recent years on the suggested acreages would result in a total tonnage 2 percent smaller than that produced commercially during the summer of 1954 for fresh market sale.

The guides for 15 fall-season vegetables suggest a 1 percent smaller acreage to be harvested than a year earlier. Increases are recommended for fall-season snap beans, cauliflower, and lettuce; and reductions for cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, and green peppers. For lima beans, broccoli, green peas, spinach, and tomatoes the guides suggest an acreage about equal to that harvested in fall 1954. If yields on these acreages are equal to the average of recent years, commercial production of vegetables for fresh sale would be 4 percent smaller this fall than last.

A 12 percent smaller harvested acreage this year than in 1954 was suggested for summer melons, with the reductions to apply to the acreage for mid-summer cantaloups, and early- and late-summer watermelons. The 1955 acreages suggested for early- and late-summer cantaloups were both equal to those of last year. Yields equal to those of recent years on the recommended acreages would result in a 4 percent smaller total production this year than in 1954.

VEGETABLES FOR COMMERCIAL PROCESSING

1954 Crop Below 1953 But Above Average

Production of 11 major vegetables in 1954 for commercial processing is estimated at 5,953,300 tons. Although this was 10 percent smaller than the 1953 total, it was about 4 percent larger than the 1943-52 annual average of 5,744 thousand tons.

Output of asparagus and snap beans exceeded that in 1953, with the snap bean crop setting a record high. But these increases were much more than offset by production declines for the other 9 processing vegetables. The tonnage of green peas harvested for canning and freezing was the smallest since 1949, and those of spinach and tomatoes for processing were the lowest since 1950. Smaller processing crops than in 1953 were also reported for lima beans, beets, cabbage for kraut, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickling, and pimientos.

Small Crop Due To Reduced Acreage And Yields

The smaller crop of major vegetables for processing, 1954 than in 1953, resulted from declines in both the harvested acreage and yield per acre. The acreage harvested in 1954 totaled 1,737 thousand, 4 percent smaller than a year earlier and almost 6 percent less than the comparable 1943-52 average. The yield for all the processing vegetables averaged 6 percent below that in 1953, but 10 percent above the 10-year average.

The acreage of tomatoes for processing harvested in 1954 was the smallest in 28 years. On the other hand, the harvested acreage of asparagus was the largest on record, that for lima beans the second largest of record, and that for snap beans was exceeded only in 1943 and 1944. Harvested acreages of beets, cabbage for sauerkraut, sweet corn, green peas and spinach were below 1953 and the 1943-52 average.

Total Value Of Processing Crops Below 1953 But Above Average

The total farm value of the major vegetables grown commercially in 1954 for processing is 243.7 million dollars, 12 percent lower than a year earlier but 8 percent above the 1943-52 average. The decline from 1953 was largely the result of the smaller tonnage harvested and to a smaller degree the lower season average price. Asparagus and spinach were the only 2 major processing crops for which the price was higher than in 1953.

Guides Suggest Smaller Acreage For Processing Crops In 1955 Than Harvested In 1954

The acreage and marketing guides for 1955 announced by the Department of Agriculture on January 31 suggested a 1 percent smaller total acreage of 9 important commercial vegetables for processing than that planted last year. The increases recommended for green peas, spinach and tomatoes are a little more than offset by reductions for lima beans, snap beans, cabbage for sauerkraut and sweet corn. The guides also suggest a planted acreage for beets and cucumbers for pickling about as large as in 1954. With a yield per acre equal to the average of recent years, production of processing vegetables on the recommended acreage would be 2 percent larger than last year.

CANNED VEGETABLES

Incomplete Data Indicate Smaller Supplies Than A Year Earlier

Packs of several important items reported through late January 1955 point to a somewhat smaller total pack in 1954 than in 1953. Substantial reductions from a year earlier are indicated for canned green peas, tomato juice, pimientos, pumpkin and squash, and the California pack of tomato paste. Slight to moderate declines from 1953 occurred for sweet corn, whole tomatoes, and the packed-equivalent of the cucumber crop for pickles and the cabbage crop for sauerkraut. These reductions are expected to be partly offset by larger packs of canned asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, tomato sauce, and tomato catsup. Those of asparagus, lima beans and snap beans were much larger in 1954 than a year earlier.

Data on packers' and distributors' stocks of a number of major canned vegetables as of January 1 probably will be available in early February. Reports for earlier periods indicate that current stocks probably are somewhat larger than a year earlier for canned asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, sweet corn, and sauerkraut packed in bulk. On the other hand, stocks of canned green peas, tomatoes, and tomato juice appear to be somewhat lower.

FROZEN VEGETABLES

New Pack Below Record 1953 Level

Preliminary indications are that the 1954 pack of commercially frozen vegetables did not reach the record level of 1953. Data collected by the National Association of Frozen Food Packers point to substantially smaller packs of frozen asparagus, cut corn, and spring-season harvested spinach than in 1953 and a moderate reduction for frozen green peas.

Holdings of frozen vegetables in cold storage at the end of 1954 totaled 636.4 million pounds, almost 10 percent smaller than a year earlier. Declines for asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, green peas, pumpkin and squash, and spinach more than offset increases for lima beans, snap beans, Brussels sprouts and sweet corn.

This is the first time in recent years that stocks of frozen vegetables at the end of the year were smaller than at the beginning. Holdings at the beginning of 1954 were 10 percent higher than a year earlier, but the decline through May was faster than in 1953. The seasonal increase in stocks after mid-summer was smaller than a year earlier, reflecting largely the smaller pack and a high rate of consumption. Holdings at the end of October were below those on the same date in 1953.

POTATOES

Potato Stocks 8 Percent Smaller Than A Year Earlier

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held in or near growing areas on January 1 totaled 118.2 million bushels, almost 8 percent less than a year earlier. Stocks were smaller than in 1954 in the eastern late States (15.2 percent), the western late States (4.2 percent), and in the intermediate States (less than 1 percent). Partly offsetting these declines were the 3.7 percent larger stocks held in the central late States. The stock estimates include all potatoes available for sale for food and nonfood purposes.

Prices Received For 1954 Crop Much Above Low Levels For 1953

The season-average price 1/ received by growers for 1954-crop potatoes is estimated to be more than half again higher than the low level for the preceding crop. However, the 1954 crop average has been exceeded eight times in the last 15 years--which includes some years during which a price-support program was in operation.

Prices received for 1954-crop potatoes began to strengthen in spring 1954 and continued at a higher level than a year earlier into the second half of the 1954-crop marketing season. Among the important factors which helped bolster prices last spring were the prospect for a smaller crop in the early-commercial potato areas which harvest the crop in late spring, and the reduction of the heavy supplies of late-1953 crop potatoes through diversion and other means. The smaller intermediate and late crops in 1954 plus the better geographical distribution of production of the late crop than in 1953 helped maintain prices to growers at a much higher level than a year earlier into January 1955.

With merchantable stocks of late-crop potatoes smaller and consumption by civilians at a rate close to that in early 1954, farm prices of potatoes this winter probably will remain well above the very low ones of last winter. The Department of Agriculture, in response to recent requests for a starch diversion program or other assistance, indicated on January 26 that current marketing comditions do not warrant an assistance program for the remaining 1954 late crop potatoes.

Larger Exports and Smaller Imports Than Year Earlier in Prospect For Next Few Months

With the 1954 potato crop in Canada 25 percent smaller than the 1953 crop, potato exports from the United States during the winter and spring of 1955 are expected to continue larger than a year earlier, and imports smaller. During September and October 1954, the last 2 months for which official data are available, exports from the United States totaled almost 2 million bushels. This was more than a fifth higher than a year earlier. Exports to Canada during these 2 months--although smaller than the volume shipped to Cuba--were equivalent to 0.7 million bushels, about 9 times that exported in September and October 1953.

Imports of potatoes during September and October 1954, totaled the equivalent of 7,500 bushels compared with 73,900 bushels imported a year earlier. The decline in imports was significant for both seed-stock and table-stock potatoes.

Import Regulations on Potatoes Become Effective February 7

The U. S. Department of Agriculture on January 5, 1955 issued regulations specifying the minimum grade and size requirements of potatoes imported into the United States. The regulations, which become

1/ Prices by States, weighted by production.

effective on February 7, limit imports of round white or red skinned varieties to U. S. No. 1 or better grade, 2 inches minimum diameter when the potatoes are in packs of 100 pounds or more; or to U. S. No. 1, size A, 2 inches minimum diameter, when in packs of less than 100 pounds. For the long white varietes, such as the Russet Burbank, the requirements are: U. S. No. 2 or better grade, Size A, 2 inches minimum diameter or 4 ounces minimum weight. The regulations do not apply to imports of certified seed.

Canada, the major source for our imported tablestock and seed potatoes, has regulations limiting exports of their potatoes to the grades and sizes which are similar to those mentioned above.

The import controls imposed by the USDA regulations are authorized under Section 608e of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1937, as amended. The Act prohibits the importation of potatoes and a number of specified fresh fruits and vegetables that fail to meet the requirements as to grade, size, quality, and maturity provisions in effect with respect to such commodity under a marketing order. Potatoes are one of the commodities for which marketing orders are currently in effect.

Indicated 1955 Commercial Early Winter and Spring Acreage Larger Than in 1954

Reports from producing areas point to a planted acreage of 167,750 acres for the 1955 winter and spring early-commercial potato crop, 11 percent more than last year. The largest increases are indicated for the late-spring area, especially in Alabama and California where the acreage last year was much smaller than in 1953.

The indicated winter crop of early commercial potatoes--which will comprise a relatively minor part of the total supplies of potatoes available for sale in January-March--is a little smaller this year than last because of reduced yields per acre. The indicated acreage for harvest is more than 5 percent larger than in winter 1954.

The volume of early-commercial potatoes harvested this spring is expected to be larger than that of spring 1954. Production in early spring probably will be close to that of a year earlier since acreage is indicated to be only a little larger than that planted in 1954. The crop that will be harvested in late spring is expected to exceed that of a year earlier because the indicated acreage is up about one-seventh from that planted in late spring 1954. If the average yield on the indicated 1955 acreage equals the 1950-54 average, the crop would be much larger than that of 1954 and could have a depressing effect on farm prices of potatoes in late spring. The extent of any decline would also be influenced by the marketing pattern of the spring crop and remaining supplies from the 1954 late crop.

USDA Guides Recommend Smaller Late-Potato Crop Acreage Than Planted in 1954

The acreage and planting guides announced recently by the Department of Agriculture suggest that a total of 1,023,500 acres be planted to potatoes in late States in 1955. This is more than 5 percent smaller

than corresponding plantings in 1954. On a State basis, acreage reductions were recommended for California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Washington. For each of the other States in the late-States group, the guides suggest an acreage no larger than that planted last year.

If the acreage planted in each State equals that suggested by the Department and yields per acre are about the same as the 1951-54 average for the late-States group, the 1955 late crop of potatoes would be 5 percent smaller than that of a year earlier.

Intention Indications Point To Smaller Acreage Planted in Intermediate and Late States This Year

According to estimates based on growers January 1 planting intentions reports, a total of about 1,138,500 acres will be planted to potatoes this year in the intermediate and late States. This is 4 percent less than the total acreage in these States in 1954. The intentions for 1955 indicate declines for all areas, with plantings in the eastern late and the central late States each down 5 percent, the western late area 2 percent smaller, and the intermediate States down 1 percent.

SWEETPOTATOES

1954 Crop Smaller Than 1953 Crop

The 1954 crop of sweetpotatoes totaled 29,880,000 bushels, down 13 percent from that of a year earlier and 41 percent below the 10-year (1943-52) average. The reduction from 1953 resulted from the smaller acreage harvested and the lower average yields per acre. The yield of 86.5 bushels in 1954 was the lowest since 1943.

Most of the reduction from 1953 occurred in the South Atlantic and the Gulf States where yields were reduced by dry weather. In New Jersey, California and Tennessee, which are also important producers of sweetpotatoes, production was above that in 1953 because of larger acreage and yields.

Prices Lower Than Last Year

The season-average farm price of the 1954 sweetpotato crop has been tentatively estimated at $2.31 per bushel. Although this is 8 percent less than the average for the 1953 crop, it is the fourth highest on record dating back to 1888. Ths peak season-average price received by growers for sweetpotatoes was $3.38, for the 1952 crop.

Marketings were seasonally heavy through November, and mid-month prices received by growers for sweetpotatoes were lower than a year earlier. However, prices strengthened and in mid-December averaged $2.59 per bushel, about 5 percent higher than a year earlier. With the bulk of the 1954 sweetpotato crop already marketed and remaining supplies somewhat smaller than a year earlier, prices received by growers are expected to continue higher than in the same part of the 1953-54 marketing year.

USDA Guides Suggest Sweetpotato Acreage Equal To That Planted in 1954

The Department of Agriculture's acreage and marketing guides for 1954, which were announced on January 31, suggested a total of 354,000 acres be planted to sweetpotatoes in 1955. This is about equal to that planted in 1954, but about 15 percent smaller than the 1948-52 average. Allowing for a small loss between the acreage planted and that harvested, yields equal the average of the past 5 years, would result in a total of about 32.5 million bushels, 9 percent more than the 1954 crop but the fourth lowest of record since 1881.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Dry Bean Crop In 1954 Slightly Larger Than 1953 Crop

The crop of dry edible beans produced in 1954 totaled 17 million bags (hundred pounds, cleaned basis), a little larger than that of the preceding year and 5 percent above the average for the years 1943-52. The increase over the 1953 crop resulted from the larger acreage harvested; the yield per acre was 8 percent smaller than in 1953 because of unfavorable weather in some of the important producing areas.

Production By Classes

As in the preceding year, Pinto beans was the leading class of dry beans produced in 1954. Output totaled 4.6 million bags (cleaned basis), 6 percent smaller than the 1953 crop but the second largest Pinto bean crop of record. The Pea bean crop, the next largest class produced, amounted to 3.1 million bags, 13 percent below a year earlier. The other leading classes of dry beans were Great Northern, Large (Standard) Limas, and Red Kidneys. The crop of Red Kidney beans was the only one in this group for which production was smaller than in 1953.

Continued Strong Demand For Dry Beans In 1954-55

In general, the demand for dry beans is expected to continue fairly strong throughout the current marketing year, with total disappearance close to the tonnage produced in 1954. Prices received by farmers for 1954-crop beans are expected to average close to those for the preceding crop.

The average price received for Pinto beans may be lower than in 1953-54 because of the larger supplies during the present marketing period. The 1954 crop of Pintos was somewhat smaller than that of 1953, but carryover stocks were much heavier. On the other hand, prices received for white beans in 1954-55 will be higher than a year earlier largely because of smaller supplies. While total exports of dry beans in 1954-55 may exceed those of the preceding year, they probably will be comprised mainly

of 1953-crop beans shipped under Governmental programs. Domestic disappearance of dry beans may be larger than in 1953-54 due to the movement of old-crop Pinto beans into the school-lunch program and other eligible domestic outlets.

Larger Acreage In Prospect For 1955

The acreage planted to dry beans in 1955 is expected to be larger than last year. The relatively high prices received for 1954-crop white, red kidney and blackeye beans probably will encourage producers to increase the acreage planted to those classes of beans. Little change from 1954 in the acreage planted to the other classes of colored beans (including Pintos) and to lima beans is expected. Restrictions on acreage of some alternative crops in some areas also may stimulate some increase in beans.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Crop Larger In 1954 Than Year Earlier But Below Average

The 1954 dry field pea crop of 3,077 thousand bags (hundred pounds, cleaned basis) was 3 percent larger than the preceding crop, but below the 10-year average. The increase over 1953 resulted from both the small increases in the total acreage harvested and the average yield per acre. Compared with the 10-year (1943-52) average, production of dry peas was down by more than a third. The average includes the wartime and immediate postwar years when production was encouraged by strong export demand, particularly for relief feeding programs overseas.

Prospective Food Use of Dry Peas To Continue Below One Pound Per Capita

According to rough approximations, civilian consumption of dry peas during the 1954-55 marketing year is expected to be from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound per capita, as in recent years. In total, domestic food use probably will be around a million bags, about a third of the 1954 crop. Domestic non-food utilization--mainly as seed--will continue to be the largest outlet for dry field peas.

In recent years the largest part of our dry pea crop has been used domestically as seed to plant not only the crop to be harvested as dry peas, but also the important crops harvested green for canning, freezing and fresh market sale. In addition, quantities are used as livestock feed on farms where dry field peas are grown. Exports in the past few years have averaged around a fifth of our crop.

Prices Received For Dry Peas Likely To Remain Above 1953-54

Prices received by growers for dry peas during the early months of the 1954-55 marketing year were below those of the preceding season. However, a strong export demand developed early in the fall season and prices increased. Mid-month prices to growers advanced almost 40 percent from October to November, and around 15 percent from November to December. The mid-December price, reported at $6.87 per hundred pounds, was $1.29 higher than a year earlier and the highest of record for that month beginning with 1938. Because of the heavy export sales in recent months, supplies available for distribution during the remainder of the current year are smaller than in the same period last year. Farm prices of dry peas are expected to remain above those in 1953-54.

Expansion In Acreage Likely In 1955

Some increase in the acreage planted to dry peas in 1955 is expected. The higher farm prices than a year earlier in prospect for the remainder of the 1954-55 marketing season probably will encourage some expansion in acreage. In addition, acreage allotments on some crops may also result in a larger acreage planted to peas in 1955, than last year.

Table 2.- Vegetables for fresh market: Commercial acreage, production, and season average price per unit received by farmers, for principal crops, average 1949-52, annual 1953 and 1954

Crop	Acreage			Unit	Production			Price per unit		
	Average 1949-52	1953	1954		Average 1949-52	1953	1954	Average 1949-52	1953	1954
	Acres	Acres	Acres		1,000 units	1,000 units	1,000 units	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Artichokes	7,320	8,600	9,000	Box	706	860	900	3.86	3.60	3.05
Asparagus	40,770	46,220	42,850	Crate	3,705	3,858	3,455	3.92	3.86	4.03
Beans, lima	21,760	18,500	17,600	Bushel	1,713	1,433	1,351	2.52	2.82	2.72
Beans, snap	179,720	157,220	158,500	Bushel	18,450	17,342	17,899	2.41	2.71	2.42
Beets	8,800	8,290	8,960	Bushel	1,644	1,612	1,617	1.32	1.38	1.34
Broccoli 1/	39,300	44,550	38,650	Crate	4,504	5,292	4,663	3.70	3.29	3.15
Brussels sprouts 1/	5,460	6,000	6,500	Ton	22,625	34,100	28,800	206.55	201.09	184.72
Cabbage 2/	148,500	151,510	143,380	Ton	1,181,200	1,232,000	1,135,200	41.84	31.20	27.86
Cantaloups 3/	126,790	140,070	153,520	Crate	13,916	15,252	15,932	3.10	3.62	3.35
Carrots 1/	85,800	82,150	80,050	Bushel	30,287	31,381	31,006	1.50	1.60	1.61
Cauliflower 1/	31,430	29,700	27,750	Crate	12,694	11,931	10,010	1.27	1.19	1.33
Celery 1/	37,140	36,620	36,630	Crate	22,702	24,003	24,937	2.34	2.18	1.99
Corn, sweet	216,720	215,100	225,100	5-dozen ears	22,611	23,905	24,856	1.65	1.94	1.77
Cucumbers	48,920	49,000	52,250	Bushel	7,042	7,528	8,129	2.36	2.80	2.25
Eggplant	5,240	4,500	4,900	Bushel	1,461	1,342	1,499	1.57	1.60	1.58
Escarole	4,020	4,000	4,500	Bushel	1,980	1,960	2,452	1.24	1.15	1.05
Garlic	2,540	1,450	1,950	Sack	144	109	136	10.74	14.60	13.40
Honey balls	620	150	---	Crate	80	15	---	4.10	5.00	---
Honey dews	9,590	10,800	12,300	Crate	2,866	3,460	3,306	2.00	2.12	2.10
Kale	2,850	3,200	3,000	Bushel	1,145	1,280	1,050	.70	.50	.55
Lettuce	212,120	209,620	206,150	Crate	37,230	40,170	40,492	3.22	3.04	3.10
Onions 2/	119,300	132,220	115,720	Sack	40,938	49,847	42,099	1.58	.68	1.16
Peas, green	23,380	12,570	14,630	Bushel	2,384	1,405	1,422	2.14	2.48	2.43
Peppers, green	38,760	41,510	49,100	Bushel	9,237	10,082	11,124	2.05	2.25	1.89
Shallots	5,000	5,400	4,700	Barrel	136	157	127	7.26	9.85	9.43
Spinach	50,060	40,500	39,050	Bushel	11,489	10,288	9,212	1.10	1.09	1.15
Tomatoes	233,560	234,760	250,000	Bushel	33,961	34,638	36,435	3.46	3.73	3.45
Watermelons 4/	367,900	435,150	453,350	Melon	97,807	109,916	118,909	3.56	4.01	2.95
Total	2,073,370	2,129,360	2,160,090	Ton	9,554.4	10,255.8	10,174.7	75.64	72.74	70.98

1/ Includes some quantities used for processing.
2/ Includes production used for dehydration.
3/ Includes Casabas, Persians, and other muskmelons.
4/ Price based on 1,000 melons.

Table 3.- Vegetables, fresh, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes: Unloads at 19 markets, indicated periods in 1954, with comparisons

(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

Commodity	1953								1954													
	September				October				July				August				September				October			
	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck	Imports	Total
Asparagus	---	---	---	---	---	3	1	4	---	32	---	32	---	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	3	---	3
Beans, lima, snap and fava	42	1,336	---	1,378	83	1,263	---	1,346	2	1,609	---	1,611	2	1,565	---	1,567	2	1,475	---	1,477	15	954	5	974
Beets	3	240	---	243	---	204	---	204	---	294	---	294	---	221	---	221	---	183	---	183	---	176	---	176
Broccoli	57	104	---	161	115	210	---	325	3	59	---	62	8	65	---	73	39	106	---	145	82	214	---	296
Brussels sprouts	15	47	---	62	19	72	---	91	---	1	---	1	3	17	---	20	54	52	---	106	98	77	---	175
Cabbage	86	1,934	---	2,020	101	1,744	---	1,845	18	1,823	---	1,841	37	1,982	---	2,019	66	1,801	---	1,867	49	1,956	---	2,005
Cantaloups and other melons 1/	3,839	1,184	---	5,023	1,073	542	6	1,621	6,480	1,934	---	8,414	4,261	1,905	2	6,168	2,754	1,294	9	4,057	1,238	475	32	1,745
Carrots	692	631	1	1,324	789	885	---	1,674	978	602	---	1,580	701	720	---	1,421	694	735	---	1,429	721	855	2	1,578
Cauliflower	184	1,242	---	1,426	80	1,569	---	1,649	52	418	---	470	73	649	7	729	63	1,299	---	1,362	69	1,411	---	1,480
Celery	749	1,386	---	2,135	581	1,369	1	2,051	1,067	1,564	---	2,631	594	1,469	---	2,063	567	1,566	---	2,133	711	1,377	---	2,088
Corn	162	2,223	---	2,385	189	455	---	644	378	2,019	---	2,397	83	3,214	3	3,300	69	2,309	1	2,379	145	749	---	894
Cucumbers	95	784	---	879	86	623	---	709	40	1,563	---	1,603	13	1,427	---	1,440	65	956	---	1,021	41	747	---	788
Escarole and endive	10	304	---	314	12	311	---	323	1	268	---	269	4	285	---	289	1	325	1	327	2	372	---	374
Lettuce and romaine	3,306	1,747	9	5,062	2,459	2,188	---	4,647	2,673	3,507	14	6,194	2,818	2,457	89	5,364	2,915	2,043	33	4,991	2,676	2,329	---	5,005
Onions, dry	682	1,680	19	2,381	536	1,441	1	1,978	956	1,385	26	2,367	526	1,624	36	2,186	652	1,797	6	2,455	636	1,541	4	2,181
Onions, green 2/	14	246	1	261	---	231	7	238	1	384	---	385	---	345	5	350	---	274	2	276	9	234	4	247
Peas, green	82	39	---	121	26	18	---	44	96	87	---	183	117	45	---	162	69	30	---	99	72	31	---	103
Peppers	50	988	3	1,041	196	745	1	942	134	931	2	1,067	11	984	5	1,000	15	1,063	2	1,080	107	840	2	949
Spinach	38	289	---	327	13	338	---	351	5	248	---	253	11	218	---	229	25	283	---	308	16	334	---	350
Other cooking greens	23	505	132	660	---	527	82	609	71	401	9	481	---	372	138	510	---	437	105	542	---	555	---	555
Squash	20	624	4	648	1	906	4	911	3	470	3	476	1	505	4	510	1	700	3	704	3	968	4	975
Tomatoes	1,104	3,328	3	4,435	1,515	2,126	---	3,641	915	4,260	95	5,270	325	4,172	80	4,577	589	3,792	1	4,382	1,514	2,275	2	3,791
Turnips and rutabagas	16	141	147	304	13	214	225	452	1	121	---	122	16	147	15	178	4	185	140	329	29	214	251	494
Watermelons	242	1,182	---	1,424	6	176	---	182	3,968	6,274	---	10,242	571	4,456	---	5,027	72	1,490	---	1,562	9	137	---	146
Other vegetables (including mixed)	447	1,121	114	1,682	535	1,089	80	1,704	284	1,070	5	1,359	318	1,057	112	1,487	321	1,072	89	1,482	307	1,206	153	1,666
Total above	11,958	23,305	433	35,696	8,528	19,249	408	28,185	18,126	31,324	154	49,604	10,493	29,902	496	40,891	9,037	25,267	392	34,696	8,549	20,030	459	29,038
Potatoes	5,318	5,348	---	10,666	6,075	4,152	32	10,259	5,703	5,664	---	11,367	5,081	5,295	1	10,377	5,134	5,321	1	10,456	5,400	4,687	---	10,087
Sweetpotatoes	85	1,144	8	1,237	67	1,270	16	1,353	26	285	1	312	39	666	9	714	45	1,260	16	1,321	71	1,439	10	1,520
GRAND TOTAL	17,361	29,797	441	47,599	14,670	24,671	456	39,797	23,855	37,273	155	61,283	15,613	35,863	506	51,982	14,216	31,848	409	46,473	14,020	26,156	469	40,645

1/ Except watermelons.
2/ Includes shallots, chives, cipolinas, leeks, scallions, and green onions.

Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas and Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Missouri), Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Oakland (California), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D. C.

Table 4.- Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No.1 when available), indicated periods, 1954-55, with comparisons

Market, commodity, and State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
		1953-54		1954-55			
		Dec. 15	Jan. 12	Oct. 11	Nov. 16	Dec. 14	Jan. 11
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York							
Beans, snap, green, Florida	Bushel	3.47	5.36	---	5.00	3.32	5.25
Beets, bunched, Texas	½ WGA crate	3.25	3.00	---	---	3.31	3.33
Broccoli, California	14's, small crate	5.03	---	3.44	5.00	3.35	---
Cabbage, Domestic, Round type, Florida	1-3/4 bushel crate	---	2.37	---	---	3.56	2.75
Cabbage, Danish type, New York	50-pound sack	1.03	.86	---	1.05	1.06	1.02
Carrots, bunched, California	WGA crate	6.52	6.08	6.58	7.00	6.23	6.16
Carrots, topped, New York	Bushel	1.12	1.12	---	---	---	1.25
Cauliflower, Texas	Double-deck crate	---	4.33	---	---	3.87	3.34
Celery, Golden Heart, Florida	16-inch crate	---	---	---	---	6.00	5.75
Celery, Golden Heart, California	½ crate	4.97	---	---	---	7.80	---
Celery, Pascal, Calif.	16-inch crate	3.54	4.60	4.10	4.24	4.06	5.30
Cucumbers, Florida	Bushel	2.77	8.58	---	2.93	4.35	6.25
Eggplant, Florida	Bushel	2.54	3.00	3.25	3.70	2.25	2.32
Escarole, Florida	1-1/9 bu. crate	1.60	1.88	---	3.29	1.60	1.81
Lettuce, Iceberg type, California	2-dozen carton	---	4.43	5.25	4.90	---	4.75
Onions, Sweet Spanish, Idaho, large size	50-pound sack	1.88	1.87	2.05	2.55	2.30	2.62
Onions, yellow, New York medium size	50-pound sack	.98	.91	1.17	1.81	1.66	1.74
Peppers, green, Florida	Bushel	---	7.88	---	4.25	2.83	2.81
Spinach, Savoy type, various States	Bushel	1.05	2.19	---	1.00	1.18	2.75
Tomatoes, Florida	6X6, 60-lb. crt.	11.70	8.75	---	---	7.00	5.61
Chicago							
Beans, snap, green, Valentine, Florida	Bushel	3.25	5.75	4.50	5.75	4.25	6.50
Beets, bunched, Texas	½ WGA crate	---	2.35	---	---	2.50	2.75
Broccoli, California	Pony crate	4.25	5.00	---	7.00	5.65	8.00
Cabbage, Domestic Round type, Wisconsin	50-pound sack	.95	.85	1.00	1.15	1.25	1.25
Carrots, bunched, California	WGA crate	5.75	5.25	5.75	---	5.25	6.00
Carrots, topped, Ill.	50-pound sack	.80	.85	---	1.10	1.10	1.00
Celery, Golden Heart Florida	16-inch crate	---	3.00	---	---	---	5.00
Celery, Pascal, Calif.	16-inch crate	3.10	3.75	3.50	4.00	3.65	4.10
Cucumbers, Florida	Bushel	3.60	8.25	7.50	3.40	5.25	6.25
Eggplant, Florida	Bushel	2.60	3.90	---	---	2.50	2.35
Lettuce, Iceberg type, California	WGA crate, 2 dozen heads	2.25	4.00	4.50	---	2.25	4.65
Onions, Sweet Spanish, California and Idaho	50-pound sack	1.45	1.60	---	2.20	1.90	2.35
Onions, yellow, Globe, Midwestern	50-pound sack	1.05	1.05	1.50	1.85	1.50	1.40
Peppers, green, Texas	Bushel	6.00	---	---	3.20	2.15	2.75
Spinach, flat type, Texas	Bushel	1.50	2.20	---	1.75	1.60	2.00

Table 5.- Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Average prices received by farmers, U. S., December 1954, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average first half of month				
		1953		1954		
		November	December	October	November	December
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Beans, lima	Bu.	2.30	4.00	2.55	2.20	4.50
Beans, snap	Bu.	2.65	2.40	2.20	3.05	2.50
Beets	Bu.	1.15	1.00	1.50	1.20	1.00
Broccoli	Crt.	3.65	3.45	3.55	4.75	3.90
Cabbage	Ton	28.10	18.30	27.40	30.00	41.40
Carrots	Bu.	2.10	2.15	1.50	1.85	2.00
Cauliflower	Crt.	1.25	1.00	1.25	1.90	1.55
Celery	Crt.	2.15	1.85	1.80	2.25	2.15
Corn, sweet	5 doz. ears	2.15	2.80	1.55	2.20	2.50
Cucumbers	Bu.	3.95	1.85	3.00	1.95	2.20
Eggplant	Bu.	2.80	2.00	1.75	2.50	1.25
Lettuce	Crt.	3.10	2.50	4.15	4.75	2.20
Onions	Sack	.60	.65	.90	1.10	1.05
Peas, green	Bu.	3.40	3.30	3.50	3.45	4.60
Peppers, green	Bu.	1.70	4.60	.85	1.55	1.70
Spinach	Bu.	.95	1.10	1.05	1.15	1.25
Tomatoes	Bu.	3.75	5.10	2.90	4.25	4.30

Table 6.- Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted) of prices received by farmers, United States, as of the 15th of the month, indicated periods 1/

(1910-1914 = 100)

Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
1935-39	114	121	133	130	125	98	87	82	81	90	103	115	107
1947-49	288	305	310	308	277	215	207	196	193	204	241	246	249
Year													
1950	257	213	195	276	231	211	200	170	156	165	214	249	211
1951	338	346	288	333	276	215	203	197	190	211	290	343	269
1952	301	249	294	341	311	294	289	240	203	224	266	281	274
1953	263	275	267	233	259	298	252	207	191	198	218	224	240
1954	271	233	246	225	279	200	243	223	170	191	237	216	228

1/ Revised. In addition to the vegetables included in the series published prior to Jan. 1954, the following have been added: broccoli, sweet corn, cucumbers, and watermelons.

Table 7.- Vegetables for commercial processing: Acreage, production, and season average price per ton received by farmers, average 1943-52, annual 1953 and 1954

Crop	Harvested acreage			Production			Price per ton		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Asparagus	79,840	88,870	100,850	97.6	93.6	101.6	183.00	202.80	226.10
Beans, lima 1/	83,160	110,290	111,770	63.0	106.8	102.9	135.90	152.80	149.30
Beans, snap	127,350	142,940	150,900	232.3	310.7	352.3	109.10	125.50	120.80
Beets	16,410	16,500	15,650	141.2	158.9	147.4	20.70	20.10	19.60
Cabbage for kraut	17,410	17,830	15,980	177.1	226.4	209.6	14.90	13.40	11.90
Corn, sweet 2/	467,630	503,340	453,210	1,205.4	1,514.1	1,487.6	20.60	23.40	20.80
Cucumbers for pickles	120,940	148,560	140,120	232.6	330.0	305.0	58.60	64.50	60.20
Peas, green 1/	430,600	430,900	424,360	433.0	464.6	398.2	86.00	93.60	91.50
Pimientos 3/	15,640	26,900	31,300	17.4	34.0	22.2	65.00	99.00	89.10
Spinach	38,770	27,140	26,540	114.3	107.4	97.3	47.90	38.10	39.70
Tomatoes	448,500	297,300	266,650	3,038.6	3,234.9	2,729.2	27.80	27.50	24.20
Total	1,845,050	1,810,570	1,737,330	5,743.5	6,581.4	5,953.3	39.20	42.10	40.90

1/ Production and price on a "shelled" basis.
2/ Corn in the husk.
3/ Georgia and Tennessee plus acreage contracted in other States by Georgia processors.

Table 8.- Frozen vegetables: Cold-storage holdings, December 31, 1954, with comparisons

Commodity	Dec. average 1949-53	1953	1954				
		Dec. 31	Aug. 31	Sept. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 30	Dec. 31 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	11,100	16,546	21,237	19,648	17,738	15,105	13,358
Beans, lima	77,425	93,751	60,350	114,078	123,716	117,074	104,568
Beans, snap	51,363	69,415	86,342	101,501	95,386	87,951	77,392
Broccoli	31,174	48,916	27,009	30,841	35,395	33,399	31,230
Brussels sprouts	17,221	25,573	12,049	13,872	19,954	25,797	28,879
Cauliflower	15,338	24,081	10,472	11,431	13,993	13,299	12,641
Corn, sweet	46,297	78,041	60,405	91,187	102,637	97,534	88,583
Peas, green	124,677	155,945	197,723	192,153	167,235	146,223	120,732
Pumpkin and squash	10,863	13,218	4,269	3,784	7,894	11,121	10,413
Spinach	34,463	44,779	36,006	32,068	29,459	26,469	23,946
Other vegetables	86,885	134,321	86,447	87,521	96,508	115,294	124,683
Total	506,806	704,586	602,309	698,084	709,915	689,266	636,425

1/ Preliminary.

Table 9.- Canned vegetables: United States commercial packs 1953 and 1954 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks, indicated periods in 1954, with comparisons

Commodity	Packs		Stocks					
			Canner 1/			Wholesale distributor 1/		
	1953	1954	Date	1953	1954	Date	1953	1954
	1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	22,611	27,069	July 1	303	2,216	Nov. 1	3,333	3,447
Corn, sweet	30,982	30,619	Dec. 31	20,188	22,049	Nov. 1	3,997	3,793
Peas, green	28,037	23,951	Dec. 31	15,113	12,189	Nov. 1	3,950	3,654
Tomatoes	22,334	21,827	Dec. 31	6/14,183	10,476	Nov. 1	4,168	3,748
Tomato juice 2/	37,754	27,062	Dec. 31	6/26,802	21,489	Nov. 1	4,199	3,643
Total	141,718	130,528	---	81,086	72,724	Nov. 1	19,647	18,285
Minor commodities								
Asparagus	4,018	4,978	Dec. 31	6/918	1,165	July 1	716	812
Beans, lima	3,085	3,520	Aug. 1	193	410	July 1	561	533
Beets	8,583	N.A.	July 1	1,341	2,070	July 1	1,046	1,059
Carrots	2,747	N.A.	July 1	551	1,028	July 1	480	429
Pickles	3/22,440	3/20,740	---	---	---	---	---	---
Pimientos	1,022	693	---	---	---	---	---	---
Pumpkin and squash	2,983	2,141	Dec. 1	2,247	782	Jan. 1	1,047	668
Sauerkraut	3/12,226	3/11,318	Dec. 1	4/6,375	4/7,233	Nov. 1	---	833
Potatoes	2,786	N.A.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sweetpotatoes	4,876	N.A.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spinach	5,407	N.A.	Dec. 31	5/1,239	5/772	Jan. 1	889	729
Other greens	2,255	N.A.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tomato products:								
Catsup, chili sauce	14,970	15,935	Dec. 31	6/11,487	9,682	Nov. 1	1,517	1,593
Paste	5/6,454	5/5,445	Dec. 31	5/6/3,630	5/2,708	---	---	---
Pulp and puree	3,643	3,159	Dec. 31	5/6/1,610	5/891	Jan. 1	1,084	882
Sauce	6/5,570	8,204	Dec. 31	5/6/4,050	5/4,624	Jan. 1	587	722
Vegetables, mixed	3,630	N.A.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total, comparable minor items	72,768	72,974	---	33,641	29,320	---	7,927	7,427
Grand total, comparable items	214,486	203,502	---	114,727	102,044	---	27,574	25,712

1/ Wholesale distributors' stocks and canners' stocks converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by the Statistical and Historical Branch of AMS. 2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice. 3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh). 4/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24/2's by using 14 cases to the barrel. 5/ California only. 6/ Estimated.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted. Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Potatoes: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1943-52, annual 1953 and 1954

Group of States	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Early									
13 States	402.0	303.8	239.4	163	216	217	61,695	65,555	51,931
Intermediate									
7 States	189.1	105.3	99.7	149	168	158	27,181	17,641	15,715
Late									
9 Eastern	505.2	372.1	349.0	264	303	300	127,396	112,743	104,646
9 Central	599.2	360.5	338.5	145	182	200	79,676	65,664	67,613
11 Western	442.7	382.9	378.1	261	309	305	113,079	118,472	115,194
Total of late States	1,547.1	1,115.5	1,065.6	207	266	270	320,151	296,879	287,453
Total of 36 late and intermediate States	1,736.2	1,220.8	1,165.3	200	258	260	347,332	314,520	303,168
Total U. S.	2,138.3	1,524.6	1,404.7	202	249	253	409,027	380,075	355,099

Table 11.- Sweetpotatoes: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1943-52, annual 1953 and 1954

Group and State	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Central Atlantic 1/	46.3	40.4	42.9	130	162	159	6,002	6,531	6,800
Lower Atlantic 2/	177.2	111.0	100.0	91	94	71	16,089	10,393	7,098
South Central 3/	301.8	183.2	186.1	87	86	76	26,234	15,712	14,106
North Central 4/	11.3	5.2	4.5	98	62	84	1,111	320	376
California	11.0	11.0	12.0	110	120	125	1,201	1,320	1,500
Total, United States	547.1	350.8	345.5	93	98	86	50,637	34,276	29,880

1/ New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. 2/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. 3/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. 4/ Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas.

Table 12.- Potatoes: F.O.B. prices, New York and Chicago wholesale market prices, indicated periods 1954-55, with comparisons

Location and variety	1953-54			1954-55			
	Week ended			Week ended			
	Nov. 14	Dec. 12	Jan. 16	Oct. 16	Nov. 13	Dec. 11	Jan. 15
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.O.B. SHIPPING POINTS							
New Crop							
Lake Okeechobee Section, Florida, Triumph (50 pound sack) 1/	---	---	2.16	---	---	---	1.75
Old Crop							
San Luis Valley, Colorado, Red McClure 1/	2/1.86	2/1.60	2/1.50	2/2.12	2/1.98	3/1.75	3/1.96
Idaho Falls, Russet Burbank 1/ 2/	2.25	1.82	4/1.79	2.14	2.68	2.70	3.26
Connecticut River Valley Points, Connecticut, U.S. No. 1 5/	1.25	1.20	1.15	1.88	2.05	2.05	2.15
Aroostook County, Maine, Katahdin 2/ 6/	7/1.04	.82	.92	7/1.70	2.10	1.81	2.04
Riverhead, Long Island, and nearby points 5/	1.44	1.28	---	1.67	2.20	2.36	2.63
Rochester, West and Central New York 5/ 6/	1.61	1.37	1.30	1.95	2.50	2.22	2.22
Lancaster-Allentown Section Pennsylvania, Katahdin, U.S. No. 1	1.64	1.44	1.36	6/1.80	6/2.49	2/2.36	2/2.37
West Michigan points, 5/ 6/ 7/	1.56	1.36	1.42	1.90	2.24	2.04	2.14
Wisconsin points, Madison, Wisconsin 1/ 5/	1.68	1.50	1.38	1.60	1.82	1.86	1.90
	Tuesday nearest mid-month						
	Nov. 17	Dec. 15	Jan. 19	Oct. 19	Nov. 16	Dec. 14	Jan. 18
TERMINAL MARKETS							
NEW YORK							
Katahdin, Long Island	1.90	1.78	1.81	2.10	2.73	2.73	3.10
Katahdin, Maine 2/	---	1.81	1.90	---	---	2.77	3.10
Russet Burbank, Idaho 1/	4.28	4.25	4.25	4.35	4.65	4.70	5.25
CHICAGO							
Round Red, Midwestern	2.35	2.10	2.40	1.95	2.40	2.40	2.80
Russet Burbank, Idaho 1/	3.50	3.50	3.35	3.55	3.95	4.25	4.60

1/ Washed. 2/ 2-inch minimum. 3/ 2-3 inch minimum. 4/ 15-20 percent, 10 oz. and larger. 5/ Various varieties. 6/ Delivered sales shipping point basis. 7/ 50-pound price doubled.

F.O.B. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices and are compiled from Market News Reports of AMS. Market prices are submitted Tuesday of each week by Market News representatives.

Table 13.- Sweetpotatoes: F.O.B. prices at Southern Louisiana points and representative market prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U.S. No. 1, when available), indicated periods, 1954-55, with comparisons

Location and variety	Week ended						
	1953-54			1954-55			
	Nov. 14	Dec. 12	Jan. 16	Oct. 16	Nov. 13	Dec. 16	Jan. 15
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
F.O.B. Shipping Points							
S.W. Louisiana points							
Porto Rican 1/.....	3.08	3.98	3.04	2.70	3.46	4.32	4.34
	Tuesday nearest midmonth						
	Nov. 17	Dec. 15	Jan. 12	Oct. 19	Nov. 16	Dec. 14	Jan. 11
Terminal Markets							
NEW YORK							
Jersey type,							
New Jersey	---	2.97	3.18	2.33	2.00	2.25	3.25
Porto Rican,							
North Carolina	3.53	3.86	3.98	4.00	3.89	4.66	4.88
CHICAGO							
Porto Rican,							
Louisiana 1/	3.90	4.55	3.60	3.55	4.15	4.85	4.90

1/ 50-pound crate.

F.O.B. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Market prices are for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by Market News representatives to Fruit and Vegetable Section of AMS.

Table 14.- United States average prices received by farmers for important field crops, December 15, 1954, with comparisons

Commodity and unit	Average		1953	1954		
	August 1909-July 1914	January 1947-December 1949	December 15	October 15	November 15	December 15
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Potatoes, per bushel	.681	1.48	.699	.932	1.09	1.05
Sweetpotatoes, per bushel	.878	2.36	2.46	2.12	2.22	2.59
Beans, dry, edible, per cwt.	3.37	9.92	8.11	7.81	8.19	8.34
Peas, dry, field, per cwt.	---	4.60	5.58	4.31	6.00	6.87

Table 15.- Beans, dry, edible: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1943-52, annual 1953 and 1954

States and class	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production 1/		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Maine, New York, and Michigan 2/	623	513	565	922	1,077	918	5,690	5,523	5,186
Neb., Mont., Idaho, Wyo., and Washington 3/	318	311	358	1,554	1,821	1,752	4,893	5,662	6,271
Colo., N. Mex., Ariz., Utah 4/	449	290	319	587	881	727	2,501	2,556	2,320
California:									
Large lima	81	68	73	1,521	1,857	1,895	1,212	1,263	1,383
Baby lima	69	36	43	1,552	1,950	1,958	1,061	702	842
Other 5/	186	179	218	1,201	1,377	1,329	2,243	2,465	2,897
TOTAL U. S.	1,725	1,397	1,576	1,037	1,301	1,199	17,600	18,171	18,899

1/ Bags of 100 pounds, uncleaned beans; includes beans for seed. 2/ Largely Pea beans, but most important source also of Red Kidney, Yelloweye, and Cranberry. 3/ Largely Great Northern, but Idaho also is the most important source of Small Reds. 4/ Largely Pinto beans. 5/ Mostly Blackeye, Small White, and Pink.

Table 16.- Beans, dry, edible: Production in selected areas, by major types, United States, crop years 1953 and 1954

Type	Michigan		Idaho and others 1/		Colorado and others 2/		New York and Maine		California		Total	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
	1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/		1,000 bags 3/	
Pea (Navy)	3,428	2,946	22	27	---	---	157	158	---	---	3,607	3,131
Great Northern	---	---	1,819	2,009	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,819	2,009
Pinto	10	72	2,385	2,260	2,423	2,182	---	---	50	53	4,868	4,567
Red Kidney	87	120	---	---	---	---	1,062	955	138	135	1,287	1,210
Standard lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,137	1,259	1,137	1,259
Baby lima	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	639	758	639	758
Other varieties	225	116	914	1,337	7	11	294	200	2,021	2,405	3,461	4,069
Total	3,750	3,254	5,140	5,633	2,430	2,193	1,513	1,313	3,985	4,610	16,818	17,003

1/ Includes Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Washington. 2/ Includes New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. 3/ Bags of 100 pounds, cleaned basis.

Table 17.- Peas, dry, field: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1943-52, annual 1953 and 1954 1/

State	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production 2/		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Minnesota	4	4	4	957	1,150	1,200	39	46	48
North Dakota	9	5	4	1,024	1,400	1,100	100	70	44
Montana	20	6	4	1,217	1,120	1,400	230	67	56
Idaho	128	90	93	1,300	1,275	1,275	1,668	1,148	1,186
Wyoming	3	6	5	1,256	1,600	1,970	43	96	98
Colorado	16	6	5	913	1,100	850	146	66	42
Washington	221	125	140	1,261	1,300	1,330	2,837	1,625	1,862
Oregon	26	14	5	1,115	1,100	1,000	299	154	50
California	3/15	6	8	3/1,119	1,300	1,225	3/158	78	98
Total	443	262	268	1,238	1,279	1,300	5,519	3,350	3,484

1/ In commercial producing States. Includes peas grown for seed and cannery peas harvested dry.

2/ Bags of 100 pounds uncleaned peas.

3/ Short-time average.

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